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Message Text

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43
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSC-01 AID-05

/054 W
---------- 106207
P R 121435Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5314
INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS MASERU 1191

USIA FOR IBS/PA, IPS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, LT
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER RESHUFFLES CABINET

REF: MASERU 732

1. PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT, AFTER EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH ALL SHADES OF POLITICAL OPINION, WITH CHIEFS, AND WITH THE BLESSING OF THE KING, HE WAS FORMING A NEW CABINET WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT. NEW CABINET INCLUDES TWO OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS, AND INVOLVES CHANGES AMONG MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE, COMMERCE, INTERIOR AND JUSTICE. TWO NEW MINISTRIES ARE CREATED.

2. COMPOSITION OF NEW CABINET IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MASERIBANE REMAINS AS MINISTER OF WORKS, BUT FUNCTIONS OF POSTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT ARE SPLIT AWAY FROM HIS MINISTRY AND OUT UNDER
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NEW MINISTER.

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B. E. R. SEKHONYANA REMAINS AS MINISTER OF FINANCE.

C. C. D. MOLAPO, FORMERLY MINISTER OF JUSTICE, BECOMES MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, VICE KOTSOKOANE.

D. J. R. L. KOTSOKOANE BECOMES MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

E. A. S. RALEBITSO, FORMERLY MINISTER OF EDUCATION, BECOMES MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, VICE RAKHETLA.

F. K. RAKHETLA, FORMERLY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, BECOMES MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, POSITION IN WHICH HE HAS BEEN ACTING SINCE LAST JULY.

G. P. M. MOTA REMAINS MINISTER OF HEALTH.

H. A. S. MOHALE BECOMES MINISTER OF POSTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT (NEW MINISTRY).

I. E. M. LEROTHOLI, FORMERLY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, BECOMES MINISTER OF INTERIOR.

J. J. RAMPETA BECOMES MINISTER OF BROADCASTING, INFORMATION, PRISONS, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, SPORTS AND CULTURE (NEW MINISTRY).

K. G. P. RAMOREBOLI, LEADER OF BCP OPPOSITION IN PARLIAMENT, BECOMES MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE.

L. P. M. LEHLOENYA, LEADER OF MFP OPPOSITION PARTY IN PARLIAMENT, BECOMES MINISTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO.

3. PRIME MINISTER ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT KHAKETLA KHAKETLA AVPOINTED AS NEW MINISTER OF STATE; J. P. KHASOANE AND J. MOTHEPU REMAIN AS MINISTERS OF STATE.

4. PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN RETAINS PORTFOLIOS OF DEFENSE AND INTERNAL SECURITY.
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5. IN SHORT SPEECH AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT OF CABINET CHANGES, PRIME MINISTER SAID HE HAD ALSO MADE APPROACHES TO DISSIDENT (I.E., MOKHEHLE WING) BCP ELEMENTS BUT TO NO AVAIL. HE SAID NEW CABINET WAS DESIGNED TO EFFECT RECONCILIATION AND UNITY. HE NOTED IT WAS NOT HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO RECONCILE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BCP FACTIONS, BUT SAID HE WOULD NOT TOLERATE THREATS TO THE UNITY OF THE COUNTRY. PM SAID MOSHOESHOE HAD ACHIEVED

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UNITY OF BASOTHO PEOPLE BUT THAT INTRODUCTION OF POLITICAL PARTIES
HAD THREATENED THAT ACHIEVEMENT. DUTY OF NEW CABINET WAS TO
LEAD PEOPLE FORWARD TOGETHER UNDER BANNER OF "MOSHOESHOEISM".

6. ASSESSMENT FOLLOWS SEPTEL.
HAUGHT

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